

FINAL TOP PRIORITIES

A. Legal & Prevention

- A1. International Plan of Action to regulate discard and loss of derelict fishing gear
- A2. IMO assistance in addressing derelict fishing gear issue
- A3. Participation of regional fisheries organization in addressing derelict fishing gear problem
- A4. Development of public-private partnerships to assist implementation of compliance of international agreements and guidelines

B. Reducing Impacts from Gear

- B1. Identify, quantify and reduce the impacts of ghost fishing gear.
- B2. Research on the movement and effects of derelict fishing gear and other plastics in ecosystems.
- B3. Research to estimate mortality rates and their impacts on affected species caused by derelict fishing gear and marine debris.
- B4. Assess the interaction of vessels with fishing gear and marine debris - filename = fouling

C. Source Identification

- C1. Hire a staff person to identify sources of gear—Gear Expert Coordinator.
- C2. Establishing a Network of Fishing Gear Specialists.
- C3. Develop GIS of commercial fishing and aquaculture locations and seasons in the North Pacific
- C4. Create an international reference (targeted) database and gear reference collection, available by region
- C5. Build a constituency for the importance of source identification.
- C6. Website for identification of gear fragments.

D. Industry

- D1. Fishing Effort Rationalization
- D2. Expand Port-Receiving Sites
- D3. Expand Recycling Opportunities/Facilities
- D4. Gear Loss Reporting and Documentation

E. Monitoring & Removal

- E1 Establish broad based funding to address monitoring and removal.

- E2. Establish a standardized survey & removal protocol for derelict fishing gear
- E3. Establish a high level intergovernmental and stakeholder *Pacific Rim Marine Debris Commission* to address the issue of derelict fishing gear and other marine debris
- E4. Investigate and establish an appropriate financial incentives for recovery, return, recycling of derelict gear
- E5. Continue current derelict fishing gear retrieval, monitoring and identification analysis efforts at the local, national and international levels, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

F. Education & Outreach

- F1. Reestablish and institutionalize funding for MPPRCA mandate MDIO (CG, EPA, Commerce) in U.S. and similar institutions in other countries
- F2. Education of fishers about gear disposal (include an international component targeted by country).
- F3. Hire and train peer group representatives to actively deliver derelict fishing gear marine debris message within priority groups (including fishing vessel captains, port captains, enforcement personnel, gear manufacturers).

- F4. Produce training/informational video on MARPOL and gear disposal (MARPOL.video.doc)
- F5. Education of public resource managers, administrators, legislators, fishing industry, and conservation organizations of the true character and impacts of marine debris is important, especially in developing countries. Both the nature of the problem and mitigation actions taken by governments, NGOs and the fishing industry should be noted.
- F6. Use source identification to target education.
- F7. Engage industry in the development of programs to ensure effectiveness and buy-in
- F8. Tailor education programs to local situation and culture; use respected community leaders.